

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS**

A Listing of Claims is provided as follows and will replace any previous listing.  
No new matter has been added.

**Listing of Claims**

1-12. (Canceled)

13. (Previously Presented) An isolated polynucleotide comprising a nucleotide sequence selected from the group consisting of:

- (a) the nucleotide sequence encoding the polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2;
- (b) the polynucleotide complementary to nucleotide sequence of (a).

14. (Previously Presented) The polynucleotide of claim 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence encodes a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

15. (Previously Presented) The polynucleotide of claim 13 wherein said nucleotide sequence comprises nucleotides 1-2484 of the nucleotide sequence of SEQ ID NO: 1.

16. (Previously Presented) A vector containing the polynucleotide of claim 13.

17. (Previously Presented) A genetically engineered host cell containing the vector of claim 16.

18. (Previously Presented) A method for producing Rho protein comprising the following steps:

- (a) culturing the host cell of claim 17 under the conditions suitable for expression of protein;
- (b) isolating the Rho protein from the culture.

19-24. (Canceled)

25. (Previously Presented) An isolated Rho polypeptide comprising the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

26. (Previously Presented) The polypeptide of claim 25 wherein the polypeptide is a polypeptide having the amino acid sequence of SEQ ID NO: 2.

27-33. (Cancelled)